

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 13, 17, and 19 have been amended, claims 4, 16, and 20 have been canceled, and claims 28-30 have been added. Claims 1, 3, 7-15, 17-19, and 21-30 are currently pending in the case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 21-27.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 7, 10-12, 14-18, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant sincerely appreciates the Examiner's recognition of the patentable subject matter recited in these claims. To expedite prosecution, claims 4, 16, and 20 have been canceled and their limitations have been incorporated into base claims 1, 13, and 19, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1, 13, and 19 are in condition for allowance. Removal of the objection to claims 4, 7, 10-12, 14-18, and 20 is respectfully requested.

It is noted that a limitation of claim 1 has been removed from the claim (i.e., the configuration of the circuitry to vary a length of time current is applied to the one or more conductive lines), but such a removal does not change the scope of claim as deemed allowable by the Examiner with the inclusion of the limitations of canceled claim 4. In particular, claim 1 previously recited the circuitry to be configured to vary at least one of an amount of current and a length of time current is applied to one or more conductive lines and, therefore, did not require both configurations for the claimed circuitry.

Section 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 13, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,798,691 to Ounadjela et al. As noted above, claims 1, 13, and 19 have been amended to incorporate the allowed limitations of claims 4, 16, and 20, respectively. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 13, and 19 and dependent claims 3, 8, and 9 are in condition for allowance. Removal of the rejection of § 102(e) claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 13, and 19 is respectfully requested.

Patentability of Added Claims

The present amendment adds claims 28-30. Support for the limitations of claims 28-30 may be found, for example, on page 4, lines 29-31 and on page 5, lines 15-18 of the specification. As noted above, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 18-30 are dependent upon base claim 1, claims 28-30 are allowable for at least the same reasons as that claim. Accordingly, approval of added claims 28-30 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to all of the issues raised in the Office Action dated September 18, 2006. In view of the remarks traversing the rejections in the Office Action, pending claims 1, 3, 7-15, 17-19, and 21-30 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Daffer McDaniel LLP Deposit Account No. 50-3268.

Respectfully submitted,
/Mollie E. Lettang/
Mollie E. Lettang
Reg. No. 48,405
Agent for Applicants

Customer No. 35617
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MEL